and classified hotels. These would serve to provide high quality transportation to tourists.

Further, certain amendments have been made in the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in an effort to streamline traffic facilities between States. Under this scheme, tourists vehicles would be able to travel amongst three or more States on a single point taxation, and the home State, which would also avoid delays at entry points of adjoining States.

In order to maintain high quality of service, the Department of Tourism conducts inspection of the vehicles owned by tourist transport operators. Recognition is given on the basis of fulfilling the stringent conditions laid down by the Department of Tourism, Government of India.

Construction of Bridges by Companies of US and UK

6333. SHRI G.Y. KRISHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued letters of Intent to US and UK companies for building bridges in the country on the "Buld, Operate and Transfer" (BOT) basis;

(b) if so, the particulars of the companies asked to build bridges and their location;

(c) the capital outlay involved in each case;

(d) what control would Government exercise on the BOT bridges safety built-up and their maintenance; and

(e) how for it will go to fill the gap between the demand and supply in the ever-increasing road transport sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) and (c) Letter of Intent in respect of second Vivekananda Bridge in West Bengal was issued to M/s CRSS, California and in respect of second Narmada Bridge in Gujarat to M/s Costain, UK and M/sVelecha Engg. Bombay. Letters of Intent were for the preparation of the project by potential entrepreneur without any commitment for award of work or reimbursement of expenditure incurred.

(d) These bridges will be built as per Indian Road Congress Standards and Specifications.

(e) It is too early to indicate details in this regard.

12.00 Noon

MR. CHAIRMAN: Papers to be laid on the Table. Mr Jagdish Tytlers.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) Third Suplementary Agreement between the President of India and Governor of Orissa under the National Highway Act, 1956.

(ii) Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Sir, I lay on the Table—

I. A copy (in Englihs an Hindi) of the Third Supplementary Agreement entered into between the President of India and the Governor of Orissa to partially amend and/or modify the Agreement dated the 20th July, 1961 also between the President of India, and the Governor of Orissa under section 8 of the National Highways Act, 1956 regarding mainte nance and development of urban links of National Highways in Orissa, under sec tion 10 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library *See* No. LT 7662/95].

II. A copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Surface Transport Shipping

Wing (Merchant Shipping), under sub* section (3) of section 458 erf the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958:—

(1) GSR NO. 49(E), dated the 2nd February, 199$, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Amendment Rules, 1995.

(2) GSR NO. 270(E). dated the loth March, 1995, publishing the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certifi-catc) for the Amendment Rides, 1995.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 7661/9S).

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Sir, 1 have a point to raise. (The Deputy Chairman » the Chair.)

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, 1 Have a point to make.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is it?

SHRI MD. SALIM: Shri Jagdish Ty tier is to lay two eels of Papers He is going to lay some Papers relating to Item No. 2 hated against hit name. This relates to the amendmeat of rales regarding Merchant ~~Shipping~~ (Continuous Dis-chargs Certificate). I want to know from fiat Minister what he Is trying at toy. What is the Cosittuous Discharge Certificate? Who is going to discharge? van if yea arc going to discharge, why contiauously? Madam, would you ask the Minister? *...(Interruptions)*. 1 am Barreling a story. It is a very interesting thing. *(Interruptions)*.... I want to know from tat Miniate? *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is that paper? What is the problem?...(In-*Omptions)... Let* me first look at the Paper? I have just come. What are you inferring to? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARAMN (Tamil Nadu): Contiaous discharge for whom? *...(Interruptions)...* How and why? *...(Interruptions)*

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA (Wert Bengal): The Minister should tell us. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI *MD.* SALIM: How continuously? Ask the Minister to enlighten us, Madam. *...(Interruptions)...* It is at Item No. 2. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr Narayanasamy, please sit down *...(Interruptions)...* Mr. Tytier, Shri Md. Salim wants to say something. They want to find out something. What is the story, Mr. Salim? Do not take long time. There *a* only one Paper to be laid.

SHRI MD. SALIM: I am not going into that. This relates to seamen, the sailors and the people who ace engaged in foreign going ships. This is about amendment of the rules. In ant nomes latere, it is mentioned "Continue* Discharge Certificate.' Madam, you are employing someone. Instead of giving ap--pointment letter, you are giving discharge certificiate. *...(Interruptions)...* This was introduced during the days of the British. And, even after 48 years of independence this practice is still going on! This should not be there. This is a colonial system. You are taking some people, you are engaging some Indian people in the foreign-going ships and instead of giving employment you are giving discharge certificates, That means, you can be fired any time and the Minister is coming here without knowing all this? *...(Interruptions)...* The Parliament cannot be taken for a ride like this *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Poadicherry): Without appointment how can they give discharge certificate? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI MD. SALIM: Madam, almost every year, since 85 we we amending this Merchant Shipping Act. Why could not we amend this and recodify it, after Independence? I have nothing against this Act. It should be updated and recodified. *...(Interruptions)...*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, please look into the matter because he feels that from 1885, more than a century, this is going on. IT these people are not getting permanent jobs

and only discharge certificates, nay become casual labourers any &S3. Please look into the matter and take can of ft. I think, the committee can take eare of it

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: I would like to inform the hon. Member flat 1 have noted what he has stated. Bat, since this is & very technical point, I will ham to get a full clarification aobut it and I win bring the same to your notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I en be looked into by the Committee as Subordinate Legislation, became this is an act of Parliament, it can be looked into and taken care of.

Now, let us go ahead with something else.

RE. REPORTED STATMENT MADE BY THE RURAL DEVELOP MENT MINISTER 0T S3U LANKA AT *MADURAI*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pon dicherry): Madam, we want to rain a very - important fans# ....(Interruptions).). It is - very serious issue, Madam,.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARA JAN: (Tamil Nade) Madam,Sri Lankan Rural Development Minister come to Madurai ....(Interruptions).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We he already 8 *tarn difficulty* today he» casuse we do not have the Zero House.
But as the Miniter for Butaend Affairs in here,you can refer in is so that be can look into the mettar and come to the House ...(Interruptions)..It is not Zero Hour now

'SHRIMATI JAYATI NATARA-JAN; Last ..*(Interruptions)... Sri Lankan* Minister came hew (Interruptions)...

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भण्डारी (उपलब्ध): यहीं का का नहीं है। जिन्होंने नोटिस दिया है उनको तो मालूम होना कि नहीं है तो फिर क्या कर रहे हैं?

उपसभापति: यहीं का का नहीं है रहे हैं।

SHRIMATI JAYANTI NATARA-JAN; He has equated Shaheed Bhagat Singh with Pirabhakaran ...*(Interruptions)*... He has said so on the Indian Territory ...*(Interruptions)*... As the Minister is here, he should react to it ...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, please give us permission to raise this issue because we have already given a notice in this regard ...*(Interruption)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second, please ...*(Interruption)*... Let me explain to the Minister. Will you please sit down? ...*(Interruption)*... Mr. Mukherjee, today we have your Calling Attention and it is our tradition in this House that the Chairman does not permit any Zero Hour mention or any matter other than the Calling Attention. But the Members, Shri Narayanasamy, Shri Suresh Pachouri and Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan, are very agitated over the statement which was alleged to have been made by a Sri Lankan Minister.

SHRI MAKHAN LAL FHOTEDAR (Uttar Pradesh): The House is concerned about it ...*(Interruption)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: We want the entire House to be concerned about it.. *Interruptions)*..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, will you please sit down? Please keep quiet, when I am speaking. I have not yet finished. The whole House might be concerned about it. They gave notice in writing ...*(Interruption)*... that they wanted permission to raise this issue in the House. As there is no tradition of raising any matter other than the Calling Attention when it is there. I thought you are here and this matter concerns the Foreign Minister another country and so it is better just to bring to your notice that matter, so that you can look into it and at any other time you can bring it to the House or explain and clarify as to what the situation is, because it is agitating the minds.